

1999 KENTUCKY ANNUAL HOME HEALTH SERVICES REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The Health Policy Development Branch of the Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning announces the release of the 1999 Kentucky Annual Home Health Services Report. This branch, established in July 1996, is now responsible for utilization data collection and reporting required by 902 KAR 20:008. This report shows all census data, age distribution together with total patients served, and patients served by discipline and number of visits. This report is organized by county within Area Development Districts (ADD). See following page for ADD map.

This report covers the period from January 1, 1999 to December 31, 1999, for all agencies in compliance with licensing and regulation reporting requirements. All agencies submitted data for this reporting period.

Data in this report are organized in three sections. Section I shows beginning census, admissions, discharges and ending census by agency and county of service. Section II shows total patients served by age category, agency and county of service. Section III shows the number of patients served and number of visits for various disciplines (skilled nursing, home health aide, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy) for each agency during 1999. The agencies are grouped first by Area Development District then by county served. **ADD totals** appear throughout the report following all county data for each ADD. **Statewide totals** appear at the end of each section. In addition, a **report summary** discussing changes in home health services during the year and various charts follow this introduction.

This report now becomes the most recent official data on home health services utilization published by the Cabinet for Health Services. For additional copies of this report, please submit a request in writing along with a check in the amount of \$5 made payable to the Kentucky State Treasurer to:

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Home Health Services Report Summary

The home health industry saw major changes in 1999 that have affected service utilization. Changes in federal regulations have changed reimbursement for agencies and have forced agencies to alter business practices. Closures, mergers, and sales of agencies were more prevalent in 1999 than in the past few years. Twelve agencies were closed during 1999, including one agency owned by a local health department. Two other local health department home health agencies were sold.

The number of home health patients served in 1999 is reported as the lowest in the last five years. Kentucky home health agencies served only 99,130 patients this year as opposed to 105,175 in 1998. This number is also well below the 5 year average (1995-1999) of 106,543 patients served. The number of patients served increased from 1995 to 1996 by almost 13,000 patients then rose again in 1997 before declining in both 1998 and again 1999. (See Chart 1 on following page.)

When looking at the Area Development Districts (ADDs) individually, all ADDs except Lake Cumberland showed a decrease in the number of patients served in 1999 versus the 5 year average. The Kentucky River (12) ADD showed the largest percentage decline with 1999 number of patients served 27% less than the average.

When examining the ages of home health patients in 1999, data shows that the largest population of patients of home health services is from ages 75-84 consisting of 26% of the total patients in 1999. Patients age 65-74 consist of 20% of all patients followed closely by the age cohort of 45-64 with 19%. Patients over 85 years of age make up 15% of the total number. These figures seem logical since it is expected that as people age, they will require more health services. However, there are less people in the over 85 age group in the total population and many of these may require higher levels of care than can be provided by home health agencies.